

DOCKET NO: 247828US2SRD

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF :
KATSUTARO ICHIHARA, ET AL. : EXAMINER: NEYZARI, A.
SERIAL NO: 10/758,481 : DATE ALLOWED: MARCH 23, 2007
FILED: JANUARY 16, 2004 : GROUP ART UNIT: 2627
FOR: OPTICAL RECORDING MEDIUM :
AND OPTICAL RECORDING-
REPRODUCING METHOD

COMMENTS ON STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22313

SIR:

Applicant acknowledges with appreciation the indication of allowability of the claimed invention. In response to the Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance in the Notice of Allowance of March 23, 2007, Applicant respectfully submits the following comments.

In the Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance on page 2 of the Notice of Allowance mailed March 23, 2007, lines 3-13 state:

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

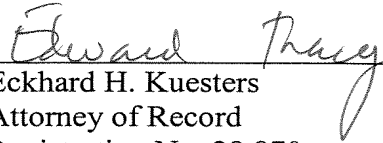
Independent claims 1, 4, 7 and 9, more particularly define the structure of an optical recording medium which consists of a separating layer, a phase-change reproducing layer formed on reproducing light incident side of the separating layer, absorbance of which phase-change reproducing layer is changed depending on whether a state of the optical recording layer is a recording mark or a space. A transfer portion is formed in a portion having high absorbance

of the phase-change reproducing layer by irradiation with reproducing light, while a portion of the phase-change reproducing layer other than the transfer portion is kept in a state optically differing from the transfer portion. These particulars, combined with remaining claimed elements are not suggested in the prior art.

However, although the above statement may be accurate with respect to independent Claim 1, it is respectfully noted that independent Claims 4, 7, and 9 do not include all of the elements recited above. For example, Claims 7 and 9 do not recite "a separating layer." Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the above-quoted statement applies at most to independent Claim 1 and not to any of independent Claims 4, 7, and 9 (and claims dependent therefrom).

Respectfully submitted,

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